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"ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY" LAUDS MASSACHUSETT'S EFFORTS IN INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY STATEWIDE

Two municipalities and three companies also received awards during statehouse ceremony

As the increasing cost of gas, natural gas and oil have put greater emphasis on conservation, the state's demonstrated success at increasing energy efficiency within state agencies has garnered some national recognition. In a State House Ceremony today the energy efficiency award given by the "Alliance to Save Energy" was presented to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) and Operational Services Division (OSD) in recognition of the comprehensive energy work occurring throughout state government.

"Massachusetts is clearly a national leader in efforts to reduce energy consumption," said Kateri Callahan, President of the Alliance to Save Energy. "Their application demonstrated a statewide commitment to energy reduction through activities ranging from the use of wood chips to heat a community college, significant energy efficiency programs in state buildings that have reduced energy costs by \$20 million, the purchase of energy efficient computers, printers, copiers, and alternative fuel vehicles, and the development of one of the first inventories of greenhouse gas emissions for state government operations."

The Commonwealth's accomplishments include:

- Eliminating 3,767 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and reduction of 5,268,668 kilowatt hours of electricity a year by purchasing energy efficient office equipment.
- Eliminating 965 tons of CO₂ through the use of 138 compressed natural gas powered vehicles, 136 bi-fuel vehicles, 73 electric, and 77 flex-fuel vehicles.
- Reducing over 400,000 tons of CO₂ through energy efficiency projects at state buildings over the past two decades.

During the second part of the awards ceremony, EOEA, DCAM and OSD presented awards to municipalities, state facilities and businesses that are engaged in sustainable activities worthy of recognition.

Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen Pritchard, whose office handed out the two municipal awards, said, "True long-term sustainability can only occur when all sectors of our society work together. I am proud to be collaborating with my colleagues at the construction and purchasing agencies and enthusiastic about the efforts occurring across the Commonwealth."

- The City of Medford received an award for its citywide efforts to reduce emissions from fossil fuels, preparing a climate action plan with specific greenhouse gas reduction targets; the installation of diesel emission reducing technology on 70 school buses and the use of biodiesel in its cemetery fleet and seven electric vehicles in other agencies
- The Town of Lenox's Environmental Committee also received an award for: investigating installing a wind turbine to power the town's water treatment facility; implementation of recycling at public events; implementation of an idle free campaign for cars and trucks throughout town that has become a statewide model; and working with schools to get solar power installed to use as a teaching tool

David Perini, Commissioner of the Division of Capital Asset Management and presenter of the two agency awards, said, "Our office has been working for years with state facilities to reduce their energy and water consumption, and I am very pleased that the Commonwealth is being recognized for these efforts. I am also pleased to be invited to present the awards to two facilities that represent models of sustainability, energy efficiency, and smart growth."

- Mt. Wachusett Community College received an agency award for its efforts, specifically: replacing its electric heating system with a biomass furnace at no upfront cost and resulting in greenhouse gas emission reductions by 20% over the past three years and reduced energy bills by some \$250,000; developed three renewable energy courses for students and is coordinating efforts with 11 other states to promote the use of bio-based fuels; implemented campus wide sustainability activities, ranging from recycling of over 1,100 tons of paper, use of non-toxic cleaning products, installation of low flow aerators in faucets and showerheads, and use of 4 electric vehicles for the grounds crew.
- The Devens Enterprise Commission won its organization award for taking an abandoned army base in central Massachusetts and turning it into a thriving community that included: the cleanup of a contaminated site while preserving 2,600 acres of open space and restored wetlands; development of over 3.5 million square feet of residential and commercial space, including homes for over 500 residents, a day care facility and an elementary and middle school; establishment of 75 businesses that created 3,000 jobs with a \$130 million payroll.

State Purchasing Agent Ellen Bickelman of the Operational Services Division, presented the awards to businesses. During her presentation, Bickelman said, "without the participation of business in our sustainability efforts, we could not accomplish all that we do. From the environmentally preferable products to the services they provide, the commercial sector is key to finding innovative and cost-effective solutions to the environmental issues we face today."

- The Dell Corporation was given a business award for its efforts that include: shipping desktops with power-management features enabling energy savings; reducing lead by phasing out CRT monitors in favor of flat-screen LCD monitors; and, an 85% recycle and reuse rate for non-hazardous materials in 2005. Also, the management or sponsorship of more than 50 community computer-recycling events, resulting in the removal of over 2500 tons of computer equipment from waste disposal, and providing information about product environmental attributes, printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.
- Herman Miller, makers of office furniture and a contractor for the Commonwealth, also won a business award for: adopting a new product evaluation tool that looks at: material chemistry and Safety; ease of disassembly; and, end of life recyclability. The company also launched a “Perfect Vision” program, setting sustainability targets for the year 2020, including the elimination of landfill disposal, hazardous waste generation; air and water emissions from manufacturing.
- Diversified Business Systems (DBS), a Haverhill-based printer, won the third business award for: installing a new compressor system and diverting some of the heat during the winter months back into the plant to reduce heating costs by 50%. DBS also installed new automatic heat thermostats throughout the facility lowering the temperature during non-operating hours; reducing their paper waste through a new program: Process Improvement for Printers (PIP), leading to a reduction of 146,944 pounds of paper, saving over \$82,289 for the company; emailing proofs whenever possible, saving paper and reducing over-night delivery charges for their customers by as much as \$20,000 per year